

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 NEA-10 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01 AF-10 /236 W

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R 151928Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5611

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13419

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, FR, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH APPROACH TO THE EC SUMMIT

REF: A) PARIS 28215; B) LONDON 12771; C) COPENHAGEN 2816;

D) PARIS 29382

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE UK EXPECTS THAT THE EC SUMMIT WILL
TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED, DESPITE THE DANISH ELECTION.
THE BRITISH WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO A SUMMIT THAT
HAD ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES. THEY WANT TO ENSURE THAT
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THE COMMUNITY'S REGULAR BUSINESS IS DISCUSSED AT THE

SUMMIT, IN ADDITION TO EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. (IN PARTICULAR, THEY WOULD LIKE A COMMITMENT ON AN EC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND). DESPITE SOME INITIAL CONCERNS ABOUT POMPIDOU'S SUMMIT PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 31, BRITISH OFFICIALS NOW CONSIDER THAT THERE ARE NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN THE FRENCH AND BRITISH APPROACH TO THE SUMMIT - EXCEPT, PERHAPS, OVER THE QUESTION OF EC COMMISSION ATTENDANCE. THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT INFORMAL, RESTRICTED SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH EC COMMISSION PARTICIPATION TWICE A YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE BRITISH APPROACH TO THE FORTHCOMING EC SUMMIT IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH GILES FITZHERBERT, ASSISTANT HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT (EXTERNAL) OF THE FCO, AND WITH ROBIN O'NEILL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE CABINET OFFICE.

2. THE UK EXPECTS THAT THE SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN COPENHAGEN AS SCHEDULED ON DECEMBER 14-15, DESPITE THE DANISH ELECTION.

3. HMG WAS INITIALLY CONCERNED BY TWO ASPECTS OF POMPIDOU'S SUMMIT PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 31 (REF A). ONE WAS THE STRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH THE BRITISH BELIEVE HAD ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES. THE SECOND WAS POMPIDOU'S EMPHASIS ON EC POLITICAL COOPERATION, TO THE APPARENT EXCLUSION OF OTHER COMMUNITY BUSINESS. FITZHERBERT SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PLAYING DOWN THE MIDEAST PROBLEM IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUMMIT. THEY ARE NOW PORTRAYING THE MEETING MORE AS A WAY OF MOVING THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORWARD THAN AS A DEFENSIVE MOVE AGAINST THE SUPERPOWERS. IT IS ALSO CLEAR FROM JOBERT'S NOVEMBER 12 SPEECH (REF D) THAT FRANCE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUES LIKE ENERGY, ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, AND REGIONAL POLICY - IN ADDITION TO EC POLITICAL COOPERATION - AT THE SUMMIT.

4. IN VIEW OF THESE CLARIFICATIONS OF THE FRENCH XGDS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13419

POSITION, THE BRITISH DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OVER THE SUMMIT WHEN HEATH AND POMPIDOU MEET AT CHEQUERS ON NOVEMBER 16-17. THE ONLY POINT OF CONTENTION MAY BE THE QUESTION OF EC COMMISSION PARTICIPATION. THE BRITISH, ACCORDING TO FITZHERBERT, WOULD MUCH PREFER TO HAVE THE COMMISSION PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, BUT THEY RECOGNIZE THAT FRANCE WILL WANT TO LIMIT THE COMMISSION'S ATTENDANCE.

5. ACCORDING TO FITZHERBERT, THERE IS NO AGREEMENT YET AMONG THE NINE ON THE SUMMIT AGENDA. THE UK EXPECTS
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THAT IT WILL INCLUDE ATLANTIC RELATIONS, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE "EUROPEAN IDENTITY", THE MOVE TO THE SECOND

STAGE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, ENERGY POLICY AND REGIONAL POLICY. O'NEILL POINTED OUT THAT THE UK CONSIDERS THE SUMMIT TO BE A USEFUL WAY TO OBTAIN ONE OF ITS TOP PRIORITIES - A COMMITMENT BY THE NINE TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND BY JANUARY 1, 1974.

6. FITZHERBERT ALSO EXPECTS THAT THE NINE WILL CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING EC SUMMITS ON A REGULAR BASIS AT THE COPENHAGEN MEETING. THE BRITISH FAVOR SEMI-ANNUAL SUMMITS, WITH RESTRICTED ATTENDANCE FROM EACH COUNTRY (AT MOST, HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT PLUS FOREIGN MINISTER) AND WITH EC COMMISSION PARTICIPATING. THE UK CONSIDERS THAT THE NINE SHOULD USE THESE MEETINGS TO TAKE "STRATEGIC" DECISIONS ON COMMUNITY POLICIES AND TO ADVANCE THE PROCESS OF EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. THE BRITISH DO NOT WANT REGULAR SUMMITS TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EC COUNCIL BY BECOMING A "COURT OF LAST APPEAL" FOR COMMUNITY DECISIONS. FITZHERBERT POINTED OUT THAT THE SMALLER MEMBER STATES ARE CONCERNED BY EC SUMMITRY. THEY BELIEVE THAT THEIR INTERESTS ARE BETTER PROTECTED IN THE ESTABLISHED EC INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND THAT SUMMITS ARE APT TO BE DOMINATED BY THE BIG THREE--FRANCE, THE UK AND THE FRG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SUMMIT MEETINGS, ECONOMIC CONTROLS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON13419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731132/aaaaaxhg.tel
Line Count: 195
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) PARIS 28215; B) LONDON 12771; C), COPENHAGEN 2816;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <13-Jul-2001 by boyleja, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by mcintyresh>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH APPROACH TO THE EC SUMMIT
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, FR, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005